**New Frontiers in Technology** Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Westward Expansion Turnitin.com

American Studies

As we have recently seen, the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad was a big deal to the US in the 1800s. It served to bridge physical gaps and to open new frontiers to those travelling to the West. But….after the advent of more efficient car and, of course, the airplane, the railroad became outdated in terms of transporting people. The Transcontinental Railroad’s impact, though, remained impressive in its own right.

Your mission now…should you choose to accept it (and you don’t have that much choice, though)…is to research a modern innovation that is equivalent in its impact on modern society as the railroad was to the 1800s.



**ASSIGNMENT**

* Think of an innovation of the last 20 years or younger that has FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED AMERICAN SOCIETY.
  + You may NOT choose the iPod
* Research that idea, invention, or product that you feel has changed modern society to the extent that the Transcontinental RR did for the 1800s.
* Write a paper detailing the following topics:

1. What IS the item?
2. Who (individual or group) is credited with discovering / finding / creating this item.
3. Where does this item come from? What similar items came before it – recent or older?
4. HOW (specifically) do you think this item has or will change American society in a PROFOUND way….how is it a big deal?
5. Where do you see this item evolving to? Basically, what is next on the horizon in this line of development.

**HINTS**

* Do NOT pick the iPod (it will not be accepted).
* Think in the realms of science, technology, medicine, or computers.
* Think BIG or SMALL (how about that USB port!)
* SHOW how the innovation has been a big deal; don’t just tell us!
* Write with strong details and ideas.
* Write formally and give us your best effort.
* Do NOT copy and paste information from your research
* DO use at least two sources for your information
* DO attempt to cite your information (as best you know how)
* DO look at the rubric on the back of this for grading guidelines.
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| **Exceeds expectations** | **4** | * Completes all of the requirements for “meets expectations” below.  AND  * Content areas are balanced. * Information is detailed and defended by research and logic |
| **Meets expectations** | **3** | * Describes, in detail, using at least TWO credible sources (NOT Wikipedia), an innovation that has changed the 20th Century. * All explanations involve SHOWING rather than just TELLING. * All subsections of the assignment are addressed. * Writing is formal (no slang, etc.) |
| **In Progress** | **2** | * Completes two or three of the requirements for “meets expectations” above. |
| **Insufficient Progress** | **1** | * Completes one of the requirements for “meets expectations” above. |
| **Severely Lacking** | **0** | Does not qualify for a 1. |

**Formatting Guidelines:**

□ All margins must print at 1 inch exactly □ Correct grammar, punctuation,

□ 12 point, Times New Roman font spelling, structure

□ Double-spaced □ Correct MLA documentation of sources

□ Attached highlighted hardcopy of sources used